

Mite pests of buds

Blueberry bud mite

Blueberry bud mites are microscopic and white, living on the inner bud scales of blueberry from the fall to spring. Females lay clear, spherical eggs, and multiple generations occur each year. Mites can reproduce rapidly, and if populations



Blueberry bud mite on a blueberry scale.

build to high levels, feeding injury to buds may be seen in spring. To detect infestation, sample current-season growth after harvest and dissect floral buds nearest to shoot tips using a microscope to see the tiny mites.



Viewed under a microscope, white mites are visible against a red bud scale.

Some varieties, particularly Rubel, are sensitive to the mite's feeding; others show few symptoms. Symptoms are seen in the spring as blistering on the outside of bud scales and poor flower set. In the summer, poor plant growth and fruit set, particularly in the tops of plants, may indicate bud mite infestation.



Low fruit set on infested cluster.



Infested plants (on left in the photo) have poor growth and low yields.